



Monday, April 17, 2006

Contact: Anne Lupardus, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2162

Governor Doyle Asks Oil Companies to Allow Greater Use of Renewable Fuels

Governor Doyle today sent a letter to five of the nation's major oil companies asking them to give consumers a lower cost renewable fuel choice at the gas pump. Governor Doyle joins Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty in asking ExxonMobil Corporation, ConocoPhillips, Chevron Corporation, Shell Oil Company, and BP America to adjust their policies to allow greater use of E-85 and other renewable fuels.

Right now, these big oil companies don't allow E-85 and other biofuels to be sold under the canopy at stations that market their product. Additionally, these companies restrict the purchase of E-85 and other biofuels by only allowing station operators to purchase renewable fuels from their suppliers – which are often much more expensive than purchasing it directly from an ethanol plant, or another local provider.

"These big oil companies have the potential to greatly increase the use of renewable fuels in the United States," Governor Doyle said. "I have joined Governor Tim Pawlenty in asking these companies to do their part to help encourage the use of fuels that are better for our environment, better for our economy, and will help reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

Last week, the U.S. Department of Energy released an analysis predicting that gasoline would be at least 25 cents higher this summer than last summer – and the Associated Press is reporting that some analysts believe the price may climb above the \$3.00 a gallon mark. Motorists in Milwaukee are facing prices upwards of \$2.90 a gallon, almost 60 cents more a gallon than one year ago.

The soaring gas prices come in the wake of record profits for the oil industry. Estimated total profits for the industry in 2005 are expected to exceed \$100 billion, and ExxonMobil recently topped the list of the world's most profitable companies. The oil companies will release their first quarter FY06 financial report at the end of April.

Today's letter to the oil companies is part of a broad effort to make Wisconsin the nation's leader in energy independence.

"The rising cost of fuel is affecting everyone in Wisconsin – and it is squeezing a lot of hardworking Wisconsin families," Governor Doyle said. "Increased gas prices this summer will not only affect our summer vacation – it will continue to drive up the price of goods and services across the board. I urge these companies to change their policies and help vastly increase E85 pumps and fuel across this state and across this nation."

- MORE -

Monday, April 17, 2006

Page 2 of 2

Last week Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, along with Illinois Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama, also raised questions regarding the oil companies' policies on renewable fuels.

Governor Doyle's letters are available at:

<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=6714>

- 30 -